**Sunny Days!**

Yesterday, I had the pleasure of taking our Year 5 and Year 6 students to Bathurst to join a combined schools choir. The day was one in a number of special events being held throughout May to celebrate 200 years since the founding of Bathurst. Hill End Public School students sang with over two hundred students from all schools within the Bathurst Region. They represented our school and village with great pride and it was a pleasure to take them there for the day.

**NAPLAN Week**

Next week our Year 3 and 5 students will be taking a series of national assessment tasks known as NAPLAN. These assessment tasks focus on reading, maths, writing and language conventions and are undertaken throughout Australia.

**Parents & Friends**

Thank you to everyone for your attendance and support at our P&F meeting yesterday. A calendar of dates for our fundraising BBQ’s is attached to the newsletter. Please get back to me with dates you are available – Please note I will only be asking you to help at ONE BBQ per term. We’ve booked Wednesday the 17th of June for a movie and dinner night at the school! I’ll send out some more details closer to the event. Mr G

**What a wonderful place to be, to hear the beautiful voices of our students wafting through the school during their ‘Opera House’ practice.**

**FUN AND GAMES IN THE SUN**

This week we have taken advantage of the fine weather with a lot of outdoor activities, including ‘Rob the Nest’ with the ‘Little Diggers’. In Physical Education, students have been practising their golf skills and during lunch and recess some students have been playing soccer, while the others pretend they are horses. Horses are very popular at HEPS!

**CALENDAR**

- NAPLAN
  12th, 13th & 14th May
- Special Assembly
  15th May

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Fundraising Calendar
- Seed Saving Bank

**Calling all gardeners!**

We are asking you to collect and save seed for our seed saving bank at HEPS. Our objective is to save seed that is being grown in our area.

**MORE NEWS LATER**
Homework writing this term has shifted to our Hill End studies. The first task for the students was to imagine that they were alive in the 1870’s and to describe their journey from Bathurst to Hill End to join the gold rush.

Claire
One day I rode my horse to Hill End. On the way I saw a cow. The cow said, “Where are you going?”
“I’m going to Hill End.”
“Well you better be going now, bye-bye.” said the cow.
“Bye-bye.” I said and I went on. Then I was there.

Emma
I was drinking tea while reading the newspaper, it said, “Gold rush at Hill End.”
Then straight away I knew what to do. I gathered food, water and my horse. Then I packed the food and water in my bag, saddled up my horse, jumped on and galloped up to the Bridle Track.
But on the way I heard rustling in the bushes. “What is that?” I said. Then I heard whispering.
“Be prepared horsey,” I said. Then I heard someone say, “We won’t let her get there.” They jumped out from the bushes. “Bushrangers!” I cried. “That’s right,” said the bushrangers “Show us the way to Hill End.”
My, what a time I had. I annoyed them until they let me go. I made my way to Hill End, made a fortune and I lived happily ever after. The End
p.s. Wait! I needed some people to carry my gold!

William
10th July, Tuesday 1870
Today, I hired a carriage to Hill End. As soon as we got to the cliffs of the Bridle Track two wheels came off. I asked the man if I could pay 20 pounds to ride on one of the horses. He said, “yes”.
I took my bag and rode off. I wish I’d stayed at the carriage because I nearly got shot by a bushranger.
I stopped for a bit after the bushranger chase.
I found a 40 ounce piece of gold. An hour later the man who I hired the horse from said I could keep her. I named her ‘Snowy’. I also got 200 pounds for the piece of gold. I bought some food and a black coat because it is cold.
I love Hill End.

Parents & Friends Meeting
We had a well attended P&F meeting on Thursday afternoon. Items discussed were the upcoming NAPLAN assessments, the Sydney excursion, fundraising, seed saving bank, grants, family film nights, technology upgrade, library books. It was a constructive meeting with some good ideas put forward about fundraising for the Sydney excursion.

Bathurst Library Van
On Wednesday, the Bathurst Mobile Library Van came to HEPS. As usual students were able to return and borrow more books. They also each received a bookmark and tattoo. Thanks!
**Bathurst Excursion**

Our senior students joined a combined choir in Bathurst on Thursday as part of the Bathurst 200 celebration for the official reinstating of Macquarie’s flag staff. Mrs Groves played the piano during proceedings. Congratulations! They had a wonderful day, even though it was very cold. Mr G shouted them a hot chocolate after the event. Thank you to Hill End Gold Limited for the use of their van for this trip.

**In Class & ‘Little Diggers’**

It’s been another busy week in class with students completing all their set lessons. They have also been very creative in their homework writing, as you can see in this newsletter. More, over the coming weeks. Students have embraced the ‘Hill End’ studies as part of their homework.

On Wednesday, our ‘Little Diggers’ joined us for a fun day of learning and play. It is wonderful to see how well the older students look out for our transition children. Well done! We have been lucky this week to have fine weather, even though it has been chilly. Mr G has taken students out for some PE on most days as we know that there will be a lot of indoor activities in the coming months. Make hay, while the sun shines!

‘JINJA CREATED AN ANZAC POSTER LAST WEEKEND IN HER OWN TIME, IT’S HANGING ON OUR BRAG WALL, DON’T FORGET TO HAVE A LOOK WHEN YOU COME TO SCHOOL. WELL DONE JINJA!’

THANK YOU To Mandy and Jinja for the ANZAC biscuits you sent in. Delicious!
**In the Garden**

This week we continued picking off caterpillars and we started processing some seeds that we had collected in February and March. We had some butternut pumpkin from Steve Hobbs that we had kept seeds from. We also had parsley and alyssum seeds that we had collected from our own gardens.